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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLOFIELD AND FLEGG

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1949.

Council Offices,
ACLE.
June, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Rural District Council
of Blofield and Flegg.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year nineteen hundred and forty-nine.

The district remains chiefly agricultural in character. The provision of mains water as provided for in proposals already submitted to the Ministry of Health was carried one step further during the past year by an Inquiry held by a Ministry Inspector at the Council Offices in August.

Careful consideration of the facts and figures contained in this report show that the health of the district has been maintained on a level comparable with other years.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	74,774
Population (estimated resident)	31,920
Number of premises	11,067
Rateable value (1st April, 1949)	£130,167
Product of a penny rate	£505

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
Live births:-			
Legitimate	423	220	203
Illegitimate	16	8	8
Totals	439	228	211

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 13.75

Stillbirths:-	5	2	3

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births: 11.25

Deaths:-	342	181	161

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 10.71

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

Legitimate	11	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	11	4	7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	72
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-

The births in 1949 were 228 Males and 211 Females, a total of 439, against a total of 464 births in the year 1948, making a decrease of 25 births.

The birthrate in 1949 was 13.75 as against 14.74 in the year 1948. The birthrate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7.

The deaths during the year were greater in number and the deathrate was 10.7 as compared with 9.15 for the year 1948 and 11.7 deathrate per thousand of population for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality rate sill remains comparatively low and with a total of 11 deaths of children under one year of age shows a decrease of three on last year's figure.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1949:-
(Figures given by Registrar-General).

Causes of death	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diptheria	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	10	2	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	-	2
Influenza	-	1	1
Acute inf: enceph:	-	-	-
Cancer of buv: Cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	-	5	5
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	9	4	13
Cancer of breast	-	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	38	15	53
Diabetes	-	2	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	16	22	38
Heart Diseases	49	44	93
Other diseases of circ. system	13	3	16
Bronchitis	7	5	12
Pneumonia	7	5	12
Other resp: diseases	3	3	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	3
Other digestive diseases	3	2	5
Nephritis	-	1	1
Premature birth	-	-	-
Con: mal: birth inj: infant dis:	2	5	7
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Suicide	-	2	2
Road traffic accidents	1	-	1
Other violent causes	3	3	6
All other causes	15	32	47
Totals	181	161	342

Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1949 in Age Groups

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Totals 1949	Totals 1948
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	1	6	40	2	-	-	-	-	-	52	63
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	10	9
Pneumonia	3	1	3	2	1	9	3	1	7	12	6	1	49	37
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fev	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Dystentery	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	7	21
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	3
Measles	2	15	18	16	22	77	15	2	1	2	2	-	172	522
Whooping Cough	4	6	7	8	10	18	3	-	1	-	-	-	57	120
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	5	2	1	-	16	9
Encephalitis Leth.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neon.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	23	31	29	39	150	30	7	20	23	12	4	377	793

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives an analysis of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1949.

Age Periods	Notifications					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	1	1	2	2	4
15 - 25 years	4	5	9	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	10	7	17	-	1	1
35 - 45 years	2	4	6	-	1	1
45 - 55 years	4	1	5	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	2	3	-	-	-
65 and over	2	2	4	-	-	-
Totals	24	22	46	2	4	6

The following table gives an analysis of deaths due to tuberculosis during 1949.

Age Periods	Deaths.					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	1	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	-	1	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	3	-	3	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	2	1	3	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	2	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	2	-	-	-
Totals	10	3	13	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Of the thirty-three parishes comprising the Rural District, seven parishes have a mains supply available and two parishes have part of the parish supplied with mains water.

The quality of the water is uncertain, due to the absence of sewerage schemes in all but two of the parishes. During the year eight water samples were reported on as unfit.

During the year under review the level in the wells in the district was generally lower during dry periods than was said to be the case in previous years. Complaints of shortage of water were made.

The water supply at Brundall continues to be chlorinated. Samples taken have given satisfactory results from bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis.

The provision of mains water as provided for in proposals already submitted to the Ministry of Health was carried one step further during the past year by an Inquiry held by a Ministry Inspector at the Council Offices in August.

Approximately 6,500 premises in the district are without a mains supply in or on the premises concerned and included in this number is approximately 500 premises whose inhabitants go to a standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year under review, no advance is apparent in the Council's efforts to provide sewerage schemes for the parishes of Ormesby, Hemsby, Martham, Acle, Brundall, Blofield and parts of Thorpe.

In addition, consideration has been given and in addition it has been requested that sewerage for the parish of Winterton be given the same priority as Ormesby, Hemsby and Martham.

With the provision of mains water and sewerage in these larger villages it is considered that opportunities will be available for the expansion of suitable trades, thus providing employment for local residents.

HOUSING.

The years of inactivity in repair and renewal of houses is evident in the present housing situation.

Not only are many new houses needed but many of the existing dwellings are urgently in need of modernising.

The temporary dwellings which are situated along the coast and rivers continue to create problems. These temporary dwellings are being used either as permanent houses all the year round or as weekly furnished huts in the summer months.